

## **State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) Member Information**

### **SADC Overview**

The SADC is an 11-member committee that administers New Jersey's Farmland Preservation Program and promotes innovative approaches to maintaining the viability of agriculture. It also administers the Right to Farm Program, which provides eligible farmers with protection from restrictive municipal ordinances, and public and private nuisance actions.

The SADC meets monthly to approve farms for preservation; recommend appropriations of funding to the Legislature; certify development easement values; approve the enrollment/withdrawal of land in agricultural development areas and eight or sixteen-year preservation programs; approve soil and water conservation cost-sharing grants; make determinations in right-to-farm issues; review staff reports regarding monitoring of preserved farms and make determinations related to deed of easement compliance; consider requests for divisions of preserved farms; approve replacement/relocation of houses and agricultural labor housing on preserved farms; evaluate impact of planned eminent domain actions on agricultural development areas and preserved farms; adopt regulations, policies and agricultural management practices; and take other formal action as needed.

### **Committee Membership**

The Committee consists of four farmer members and two public members, as well as five ex officio members or their designees. The ex officio members are the Secretary of Agriculture, who serves as Chair, the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, the State Treasurer, the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs and the Dean of the Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences.

### **Member Terms**

Farmer and Public Members are appointed to four-year terms unless they are filling an unexpired term. Their service is limited to two consecutive terms.

### **SADC Meetings**

SADC members are required to attend monthly Committee meetings. The SADC generally meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 200 Riverview Plaza in Trenton. (Typically there is no August or November meeting and the December meeting is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month.) Monthly SADC meetings begin at 9 a.m. and typically continue into the afternoon. In addition, members should anticipate attending approximately a half-dozen subcommittee meetings during the year.

### **Farmer Member Eligibility**

Farmer members must be actively engaged in farming. Candidates are not required to own farmland but a majority of the farmer members on the SADC (3 out of the 4) must own a portion of the land they farm.

### **Compensation**

Farmer and Public Members serve without compensation but are reimbursed for mileage for travel.